



# **San Diego City Attorney MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2008**

**Contact: Communications Division (619) 235-5725**

### **CITY ATTORNEY HIRES NEW DEPUTY TO HANDLE SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC FIRE LITIGATION**

**San Diego, CA**—San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre today announced the hiring of a veteran civil litigator to oversee the City of San Diego's lawsuit against San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

Bruce S. Bailey joins the San Diego City Attorney's Office with 37 years experience as a practicing attorney, the last 32 of which have been devoted to general civil litigation, contracts, insurance defense and other business transactional and formation matters. Mr. Bailey has tried over 70 jury trials and negotiated many settlements, achieving phenomenal results for his clients. He is admitted to practice in the state and federal courts in California, Ohio, the Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals in Washington, D.C.

"Mr. Bailey is an exceptional litigator who brings a level of experience that is unsurpassed for a public law firm. One of his primary assignments will be to prosecute the civil lawsuit we recently filed against SDG&E," said City Attorney Aguirre.

On June 19, the City Attorney's Office filed a complaint for damages against SDG&E in connection with the Witch Creek and Guejito fires of October 2007, which damaged or destroyed a significant amount of real or personal property that was owned by the City of San Diego. Preliminary investigations have determined that both fires were started by power lines and/or other electrical equipment under the custody and control of SDG&E. The damages are expected to exceed \$45 million.

Mr. Bailey was selected by his peers in 1983 as an honored member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and has been an active member in that organization ever since. Mr. Bailey is also a member of the California & Ohio Bar Associations, Southern California Defense Counsel and the San Diego County Bar Association. He has received and continues to have the highest rating (AV) from Martindale-Hubbell.

Bailey was born in Dayton, Ohio and grew up in Fishkill, New York. He received his undergraduate degree in biology from Denison University and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Toledo School of Law in Ohio. He has served as a Judge Pro Term for the San Diego Superior Courts; as an adjunct professor at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama and as the Western Regional Fellows chairperson for Denison University.

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He has volunteered his time to help disabled children at Children's Hospital in San Diego and has served on the Board of Directors of the Humane Society.

He first came to California in 1971 as a member of the JAG, U.S. Air Force, assigned to March Air Force Base in Riverside, California. He subsequently served in the legal offices at Wiesbaden, Germany, Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and Hickam Air Force Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He rose to the rank of Colonel and was awarded the coveted Legion of Merit medal. Mr. Bailey was selected as a Trustee of the Air Force JAG School Foundation and serves as a Trustee of the Mount Soledad Memorial Association.

Mr. Bailey has resided in San Diego, California since 1988 with Judy, his wife of 36 years, who is also a practicing attorney.

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